

Message Text

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61/13
ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /031 W
----- 070184

O 230915Z NOV 73
FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9677
DNINFO RUMJMA/AMEMBASSY MANILA IMMEDIATE 1675

C O N F I D E N T I A L SINGAPORE 4526

EXDIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OCLR ETRN SN
SUBJECT: REFUSAL OF BUNKERING FOR US SHIPS

REF: STATE 230512

1. AMERICAN PRESIDENT LINES HAS NO SHIPS IN SINGAPORE PORT
NOW: SS PRES. TYLER SAILED YESTERDAY, HAD NO PROBLEMS GETTING
BUNKER FUEL. NEXT SHIPS DUE ARE GRANT, NOV. 26 AND
TYLER, DEC. 9.

2. AMERICAN EXPORT LINES APPARENTLY HAS NO SHIPS SERVING
SINGAPORE AT THIS TIME. IF DEPARTMENT WISHES EMBASSY
PURSUE THIS, PLEASE IDENTIFY SHIP IN QUESTION FOR
OUR FURTHER INVESTIGATION.

3. QUICK CHECK WITH SEVERAL AMERICAN SHIPPING LINES
OPERATING IN SINGAPORE INDICATES BUNKERING HAS NOT BEEN
PROBLEM. OIL COMPANIES HERE ARE SUPPLYING REGULAR CUSTOMERS
UNDER EXISTING CONTRACTS WITH NO CUTBACK IN
NORMAL AMOUNTS OF BUNKERS BUT NOT ACCEPTING NEW REPEAT NEW
BUNKERING CUSTOMERS. SHIPS WHICH WOULD NORMALLY
BUNKER IN OTHER PORTS, FOR EXAMPLE, THREE JAPANESE
SHIPS WHO NORMALLY BUNKER IN JAPAN, REPORTEDLY REFUSED
HERE. PRESUMABLY US FLAG SHIPS WHICH NORMALLY BUNKER
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AT OTHER PORTS MIGHT ALSO BE REFUSED IF THEY TRY TO
BUNKER HERE.

4. THERE ARE ONLY 10 SINGAPORE OWNED STEAMSHIPS

REGISTERED IN SINGAPORE, WITH TOTAL OF
130 THOUSAND GROSS TONS. NEPTUNE ORIENT LINES,
NATIONAL SHIPPING LINE, OPERATES 7 VESSELS WHICH PLY
MAINLY BETWEEN SINGAPORE AND EUROPE/AUSTRALIA. IN
ADDITION THERE IS SMALL FLEET OF FOREIGN OWNED SHIPS
REGISTERED IN SINGAPORE.
CRONK

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To: STATE
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